

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 20708 132144Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6960

UNCLAS MEXICO 20708

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:SNAR/MX
SUBJECT: EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 275328

1. EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF
FOLLOWING OFFICIALS:

(A) AMBASSADOR PATRICK J. LUCEY (CHAIRMAN)
(B) MINISTER HERBERT B. THOMPSON (VICE CHAIRMAN)
(C) JOSEPH D. MCLAUGHLIN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT (SECRETARY)
(D) WILLIAM D. CALDERHEAD, EXECUTIVE COUNSELOR
(E) WILLIAM A. HAYNE, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR
(F) FRANCIS STARRS, POLITICAL COUNSELOR
(G) LEONARD J. BALDYGA, PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNSELOR
(H) ROBERT WILCOX, SCIENCE COUNSELOR
(I) VERNON D. MCANINCH, CONSUL GENERAL
(J) RICHARD WELTON, AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE
(K) RAUL E. GERHART, CUSTOMS ATTACHE
(L) RAUL GARIBAY, DEFENSE ATTACHE
(M) B. WARREN O'NEAL, ATTACHE REPRESENTING IMMIGRATION
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 20708 132144Z

AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
(N) NORBERT BOWERS, ATTACHE REPRESENTING INTERNAL REVENUE
SERVICE
(O) JOHN J. FOARDE, LEGAL ATTACHE
(P) CAESAR P. BERNAL, NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE ATTACHE
(Q) JACQUES I. KIERE, NARCOTICS ATTACHE
(R) LAWRENCE STERNFIELD, POLITICAL OFFICER

2. BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IN MEXICO, THIS SUBJECT IS INCLUDED ON AGENDA OF WEEKLY EXPANDED COUNTRY TEAM MEETINGS, IN WHICH MEETINGS ABOVE INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATE. POLICY AND PROGRAM PROPOSALS ARE CIRCULATED TO ABOVE INDIVIDUALS IN DRAFT BEFORE BEING RECOMMENDED TO WASHINGTON BY MISSION. IN PAST SIX MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN COUNTLESS MEETINGS OF WORKING GROUPS DEALING WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, MEETING TO DISCUSS REMOTE SENSING OPTIONS WAS ATTENDED BY OFFICERS REPRESENTING SIX SECTIONS, WHILE ANOTHER MEETING ON UPGRADING/ENFORCEMENT ON MEXICO'S SOUTH BORDER WAS ATTENDED BY EIGHT SECTIONS.

3. PURPOSE OF NARCOTICS COMMITTEE, AS WE SEE IT, IS TO ENSURE THAT FULL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY ARE BROUGHT TO BEAR AGAINST NARCOTICS. FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, EMBASSY'S APPROACH SEEMS TO BE WORKING WELL. TO CITE SOME EXAMPLES, SCIENCE COUNSELOR IS PARTICIPATING IN EVALUATION OF REMOTE SENSING, AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE REVIEWS QUESTIONS RELATED TO HERBICIDES, CUSTOMS ATTACHE CLOSELY FOLLOWS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE IS WORKING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ON POSSIBLE TAX VIOLATIONS OF MAJOR TRAFFICKERS, DEFENSE ATTACHE REPORTS ON MEXICAN MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN NARCOTICS CONTROL, AND USIS FIELDS QUESTIONS FROM U.S. JOURNALISTS.

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 20708 132144Z

4. BASED ON ABOVE MISSION-WIDE PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM, PROBLEMS WHICH CANNOT BE RESOLVED AT THE WORKING LEVEL WITH MEXICAN AUTHORITIES ARE REFERRED TO THE AMBASSADOR OR DCM, WHO CONTACT THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL ON NARCOTICS ON AN AVERAGE OF AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK. WE PERCEIVE NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE APPROACH WE ARE USING.

5. REFTEL FIRST RECEIVED MEXICO CITY 10 DEC 77. LUCEY

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